

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed on November 1, 2006 ("Office Action"). Claims 1-17, 19, 27-29, 35, 37-41 are pending in the Application. The Office Action rejected Claims 1-8, 12, 17, 19, and 35. The Office Action allowed Claims 37-41, and objected to Claims 9-11, 13-16, and 27-29. Applicants have amended Claims 1, 10-11, 19, 28-29, and 40-41. Applicants have cancelled Claims 2-9, 12-16, and 27, and added Claims 42-45. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Allowable Subject Matter:

Applicants respectfully thank the Examiner for the allowance of Claims 37-41. In order to correct an informality, Applicants have amended dependent Claims 40-41, which depend from allowed Independent Claim 38. Favorable action is requested.

Claim Objections:

The Office Action objects to Claims 9-11, 13-16, and 27-29 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. The Office Action states that Claim 9 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have done so as Independent Claim 1. Accordingly, Independent Claim 1 is allowable, as are Claims 10, 11, and 17 that depend therefrom. Favorable action is requested.

Additionally, the Office Action states that Claims 13 and 27 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have done so as Independent Claims 42 and 19, respectively. Accordingly, Independent Claims 42 and 19 are allowable, as are Claims 43-45, 28, 29, and 35, respectively, that depend therefrom. Favorable action is requested.

CONCLUSION

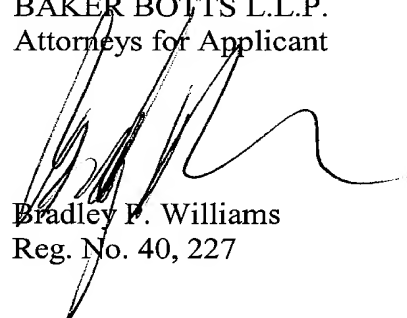
Applicants have now made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for immediate allowance. For the foregoing reasons and for other apparent reasons, Applicants respectfully request full allowance of all pending claims.

If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference or an interview would advance prosecution of this Application in any manner, please feel free to contact the undersigned attorney for Applicants.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the amount of \$200.00 for the cost of one new independent claim to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of Baker Botts L.L.P. Although Applicant believes no other fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,

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